

GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

BY


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Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district with a tendency to fall in the matter of population. A Flour Mill is the only manufactory of any size in the Borough.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwellings-houses, and the house accomodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards is still far from what it ought to be, and I hope to see further improvement in this respect.

At the present time there are no Bye-laws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley ; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

No sample of water was sent for analysis during the year.

Milk Supply.

The milk supplied is wholesome, the Dairies and Cow-sheds are generally in good condition, and there are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows.

Sewers and Sewerage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards, and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. The old brick sewers are being re-placed by sanitary pipes from time to time.

The pail system is adopted for the removal of excrement, which is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from

any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dustbins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Factories (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the Inspector, who also periodically inspects the Schools.

Schools.

The Schools are in good sanitary condition and water is supplied to the children from wells adjacent.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out under my supervision.

Abatement of Nuisances.

Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances and if not attended to reports to your Authority.

Isolation Hospital.

No Isolation Hospital has been provided. I hope your Authority may see your way to make arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox, and placed in a very suitable situation.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole district, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases or nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

Births and Deaths.

During the year the births of 49 children have been registered, 24 males and 25 females; an average of 24·5 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 21 persons residing in the Borough, and of five persons belonging to the district, one in the Three Counties Asylum, three in the County Hospital, and one in the Union Workhouse, Huntingdon, make a total of 26, a rate of 12·36 per 1000 persons living. Three deaths occurred in children under one year of age, and 12 in persons above 65 years of age; of these four were 80 years and upwards, and three 90 and upwards. The infant mortality continues low.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Only one case of Infectious Disease has been notified during the year. Notification of disease has been in force since the first passing of the Act.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred.

Scarlet Fever.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified. The origin of the disease could not be traced.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified. Vaccination Exemption Orders are rapidly on the increase. I hope soon Re-Vaccination will be made compulsory, as in the absence of Small Pox the necessity for Re-Vaccination is lost sight of. In the event of an outbreak of Small Pox, I fear the consequences would be very serious owing to the neglect of Vaccination.

Enteric Fever.

No case of Enteric Fever was notified.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Six deaths from diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered, making an average death-rate of 2·9 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

No death from Phthisis or other tubercular diseases occurred. Phthisis should be added to the list of compulsory notifiable diseases, so that directions might be given as to the disposal of the sputum, and that houses might be disinfected after the removal or death of the patients. Disinfection is carried out where practicable.

Influenza.

Influenza was prevalent during March, but no death occurred.

Cancer.

No death from Cancer was registered during the year.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

One sample of Lard, one of Butter, two of Scotch Whiskey, and two of New Milk were analyzed during the year, and all found to be genuine.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 3, of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 4, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 5, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Factory and Workshops Report.

And the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,

February 11th, 1909.

TABLE I.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths at all Ages.		Rate.*
		Number.	Rate*	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.							
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate*.						
											5.	6.		7.	8.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9	10.	11.	12.	13.	
1898	2095	59	28.1	8	135.5	30	14.3	...	...	5	35	16.7
1899	2095	62	29.5	8	129.0	38	18.1	...	...	7	45	21.4
1900	2095	62	29.5	17	274.1	39	18.6	...	...	8	47	22.4
1901	2017	56	27.7	5	89.2	26	12.8	...	...	3	29	14.3
1902	2017	53	26.2	7	132.0	34	16.8	...	...	3	37	18.3
1903	2017	57	28.2	6	105.2	29	14.3	...	...	3	32	15.9
1904	2017	54	26.7	3	55.5	29	14.3	...	...	2	31	15.3
1905	2017	61	30.2	11	180.3	34	16.8	...	...	1	34	16.8
1906	2017	52	25.7	10	192.3	37	18.3	...	...	10	47	23.3
1907	2017	51	25.2	2	39.2	32	15.8	...	...	4	36	17.8
Averages for years 1898-1907.	2040	56.7	27.7	7.7	133.2	32.8	15.9	...	...	4.6	37.3	18.1
1908	2017	49	24.5	3	55.5	21	10.61	...	...	5	26	12.38

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres }
(exclusive of area covered by water) 4659 }
Total population at all ages ... 2017
Number of Inhabited houses ... 500
Average number of persons per house 38

At Census of 1901.

Public Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Addenbrooke Hospital Cambridge, Huntingdon Union Workhouse, Huntingdon County Hospital, Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey.

TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN ALL DISTRICTS.						
	At Ages †—Years						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria							
Membranous Croup ...							
Erysipelas							
Scarlet Fever	1			1			
Typhus Fever.....							
Enteric Fever.....							
Relapsing Fever.....							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever.....							
Plague.....							
TOTALS.....	1			1			

NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

TABLE IV.—Godmanchester Urban District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district						
	All ages	Under 1 Year	I and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 20	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Diarrhœa							
Phthisis.....							
Other tubercular diseases							
Other Septic diseases ...							
Cancer, malignant disease							
Bronchitis.....	3					1	2
Pneumonia	2	1					1
Whooping Cough.....	1	1					
Premature Birth							
Heart Diseases	5					1	4
Accidents	1			1			
Suicides ...							
All other causes	14	1				4	9
All Causes.....	26	3		1		6	16

TABLE V. BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of Age

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Births in the year.

Legitimate

Illegitimate

48

1

Population Estimated to middle of 1906.

2017.

Deaths Legitimate 25.

Illegitimate 1.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 26.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1908 for the Urban District of Godmanchester.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total	8	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referee to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3. Home work.—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops & Bakehouses.—4

5. Other Matters.—Nil.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of:

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis & Tubercular Disease.
1899	5	3
1900	4	4
1901	3	4
1902	4	4
1903	2	4
1904	3	5
1905	4	4
1906	2	4
1907	3	2
1908	0	0
	30	34

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1908.

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	10
New Drains	...	...	...	...	4
Yards gravelled	...	...	...	...	36
New Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	3
Earth Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Dust Bins provided	...	...	...	...	40
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	2
Other Nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	3

C. MAYFIELD,
INSPECTOR.

